

The Passing Of The African Tradition

On January 17, 1938, Dr. Charles Wesley, of Howard university, made a very interesting speech in the B. N. Duke auditorium. He used for his subject, "The Passing of the African Tradition."

Dr. Wesley introduced his speech by saying that the Greeks and the Jews feel very proud of their traditions because they have been taught to believe that they have a worthy background. In school, they, as well as we, are taught that European art—European civilization, has always been superior to that of Africa.

We Negroes have been taught that it was almost a disgrace to be a Negro and that Africa has no worthy background; therefore we are not proud of our ancestry.

Dr. Wesley gave the idea that we should be proud of our traditions because in studying the history of Africa one finds that there is much to be proud of. Much of the credit that has been given to other people is due the Africans. Does Africa have a history; a religion? Yes. Many of the queens of long ago were Negroes. Three of the most noted kings of ancient times were of the Negro race. They were kings of Melle, of Soghay, and of Askia. Their form of government has handed down much to other forms of government. Although missionaries have said and done much about the African religion, we find that the Africans were worshipping the spirit that was in the objects they worshipped as we worship God. Another reason we should be proud of our tradition is that the home of Adam and Eve, the Garden of Eden, is in Africa.

Does Africa have a literature? Africa does have a literature. Just as other people have folk tales and other stories the Africans have theirs. Dr. Wesley made this clear by relating one of the folk tales to us.

Why then should we hesitate to be proud of our traditions? We have no reason. Although it has been said from year to year that we have no worthy background, that all Africans are black, which statement is false, and that it is almost disgraceful to be black, we should study our African history and be able to prove that the unworthy tradition concerning Africa is false.

—VERTA S. JORDAN.

Heart Pain Is Traced To Overweight In Many Cases

Severe chest pain, resembling that of the dread heart malady, angina pectoris, is in many cases due to excessive overweight, Dr. William J. Kerr, professor of medicine in the University of California Medical School, has found.

The huge "bay window" of very fat men forces them to adopt an abnormal posture which cramps the chest, causes flaring of the lower ribs, fixes the diaphragm at a low position, thus producing breathlessness and preventing the heart from getting a normal supply of oxygen. Severe pain and low blood pressure in the standing position accompany the condition. The shortness of breath is marked only in the standing position which is contrary to the usual experience in heart failure.

The pain and other features clear up when the weight is reduced and the posture brought back to normal, Dr. Kerr discovered. Diet, properly fitted abdominal belts, and later postural exercises are used in the treatment. —Science News Letter.

Soft Answers

At a reception in Washington, a young man was asked by a widow to guess her age. "You must have some idea," she said as he hesitated.

"I have several ideas," he admitted with a smile. "The only trouble is that I hesitate whether to make you ten years younger on account of your looks, or ten years older on account of your brains."

—Lippincott's Magazine
* * *

A lady approached Congressman John Allen, of Mississippi, one day and held out her hand. "Now confess, Mr. Allen," she said, "that you've forgotten all about me."

He had. He knew her face, but his memory would serve him no further. But with a low bow he replied, "Madam, I've made it the business of my life to try to forget you."

—Told by O. Henry
* * *

An old lady of 90, asked how she had lived so long and so serenely, answered: "I think it is because I've met life's every emergency by going to bed."

—Bruce Barton in
The American Magazine

The Reporter

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nual report of R. W. Warfield, director of the Bureau of Appointments and Student Employment. The total amount of assistance provided was \$360,205. Seven hundred undergraduates were given assistance.

A new athletic code which bans football subsidies and recruiting but does not impose arbitrary restrictions on scholastic or financial aid to undergraduates has just been adopted by Cornell University. The code "provides for unqualified university control of all student aid, direct or indirect; bars so-called 'transfer students' from all intercollegiate competition and frowns upon prep school proselyting." It is substantially the same as the "triple agreement" of Harvard, Yale, and Princeton.

Announcement comes from the University of Pennsylvania that recommendations have been made to the effect that undergraduates who fail to achieve and maintain a satisfactory standing in English in all phases of their university work may be barred from graduation until such deficiencies have been overcome. According to the plan, instructors in all departments are to stress the importance of good written English.

Effective through the academic year 1938-39, tuition fees at Syracuse University will be increased somewhat over 10 per cent. In most of the undergraduate colleges the increase is from \$335 to \$375. In the College of Applied Science the increase is from \$365 to \$400. The College of Law and the School of Library Science continue at \$335, and the College of Medicine at \$500. Partially to meet these increases in rates, all special fees except those for matriculation, graduation, and excess hours will be abandoned. In the past, laboratory fees have been a substantial source of revenue to the University, ranging from \$2 to \$24 annually per student.

"The immediate task of educators is to persuade the American people that 'whole men' are worth while," comments President Dixon Ryan Fox, of Union College. President Fox believes the "ideal college would be an Interpreter's House where a young man might sample the various special interests of life and with slow deliberation come to choose the most congenial to him."

This Practice Teaching!

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understand youth; perhaps our age cannot understand the youth of the present high school generation.

Perhaps, though, you can tell us what to do when:

1. One of us asks a boy to make a sentence using the word "regarding." He, with all sincerity, responds, "I am going, regarding to what you say."

2. A shorthand teacher, who dictating a sentence containing the word "shepherd" asks a pupil how he wrote the word and he replies, "I wrote it in longhand."

3. A slightly mischievous boy takes about two minutes to deposit a piece of paper in the waste basket, using magnificent flourishes of the hands in accomplishing what seems so simple to everybody else.

4. The amplifier blurts out a message and no less than four pupils fall out into the hall to catch what is being said.

5. You haven't studied too much yourself and the class wit trips you in a couple of items.

6. You are constantly harrassed by pupils who will remove neither hats, coats, nor chewing gum at your first request.

7. You have a pupil who is a victim of the opposite of insomnia.

8. You have covered your lesson ten minutes before the bell rings and Miss Rush happens to be visiting your class that day.

There is one thing certain, if walking is good for your health, all of us should be perfect specimens of that coveted asset. Try walking to Hillside, laden with books and a disturbed mind, in nine minutes as your correspondent did. Maybe I'm wrong, but I know that will take either pounds off or gray matter out? Rare and sweet are the chances for riding; walking is the universal method of transportation.

Fellow students, my advice to you is: Follow your teacher-training course through and though the way be rugged, plod on with the assurance that after all is over, you can receive, together with your broadened experience, either B, C, or F.

—J. O. YEATES.

The Cost of Education

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Montana	96.29
Nebraska	64.75
Nevada	128.11
New Hampshire	84.63
New Jersey	108.33
New Mexico	63.16
New York	134.13
North Carolina	31.11
North Dakota	75.46
Ohio	82.42
Oklahoma	43.33
Oregon	77.83
Pennsylvania	79.70
Rhode Island	95.03
South Carolina	32.01
South Dakota	85.70
Tennessee	35.81
Texas	55.15
Utah	67.07
Vermont	65.55
Virginia	38.92
Washington	85.33
West Virginia	57.93
Wisconsin	80.87
Wyoming	101.62

—Educational Digest.

The above figures do not apply to the education of Negro children in the South.

It is a shame. Students in our colleges should awaken to the gross injustice and fit themselves for the future, which will demand not only wisdom, but strength.

Bri-Dra-So Stagers Rehearsing

The Bri-Dra-So Stagers, having successfully completed their first major production of the year, "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," are now eagerly rehearsing for their next production, "The Yellow Shadow." This promises to be a very interesting mystery-comedy and will be produced on the 18th of March. The following have been selected for the cast: Mattie Laws, Mayme Ethel Spaulding, Pocahontas Scott, Willard Tyler, Geneva Harper, Melvin Sykes, Esther Delaney, Walter Ellerbee, Joseph Christmas, and Willard Stafford.

Off Campus Extension

Service Corner

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In the announcement communication, the hope was expressed that the teachers would not slow up their pace of work in bringing their certificates up to standard level because of this additional time given them. To our way of thinking and too from the reaction of teachers to this extension of time, it would seem that it will serve as a spur to greater activity rather than a retardation. In fact teachers who had lost hope of making the grade have taken up the work again and are planning work according to this new time limit. Whatever the general outcome may be, it is certain that large numbers of worthwhile teachers will be greatly benefited because of the extension of time and will be able to reach the goal of their ambition. It is this large group of teachers that makes the action of the Certification Division both timely and helpful.

The Current Extension Course—

Graham Center

By G. W.—A Member

In the extension classes for this year, "Ante-Bellum North Carolina" is being studied. Much interest and enthusiasm have been manifested by the pupils and the teacher of the Graham Center. Although this text is a social history, the class as a whole has given special attention to the Negro of North Carolina.

I have often wondered just how the scales of Fate would balance if all the handicaps and prejudices that have been hurled against the Negro of North Carolina and the limited opportunities and advantages offered him were placed upon it to be justly weighed.

Of the three race elements in North Carolina during slavery, the Negro was at the bottom of the scale. The superiority of the Negro as a slave kept the white man from enslaving the Indians although this attempt was made. Slavery was an expensive institution but the returns were great because the service of the Negro was much better than that of some others of European descent.

Since the Negro was at the bottom of the social scale, his cultural development, the color of his skin, and the laws of the province operated to keep him at the bottom. He knew that he had no chance before the Emancipation, but even at that, he was alert and made use of every possible opportunity.

We all know what rapid progress has been made by this race, although the mountain of prejudice continues to stand as a barrier. Yet in spite of the many hardships this seemingly unfortunate race has undergone, our progress, compared with that of other races, has not been excelled. It is good to know the depths from which we have come, that we may better appreciate the progress made, and the influences that have helped to bring it about.

Youth Leadership

In view of Negro History and Negro Youth Achievement weeks, which have only recently been observed, the quest of leadership and its importance culminates in my mind.

It seems fitting that it should follow Negro History Week, which places great emphasis upon the past, for it is the aim of Negro Youth Achievement Week to pay tribute and give encouragement to today's youth who have achieved and those who are striving to make their mark in the world.

Following the conclusion of the period of chattel slavery by the Emancipation Proclamation, numerous advancements were made by pioneers of the race. These when reminiscing today, we distinguish as leaders. Is the youth of tomorrow not inspired by the high achievements of his predecessors? This is an inquiry which is ever recurring, but yet it is for us to answer. Whatever the course we may pursue there have been those who have treaded the paths before us. The progress made has served as an incentive for our aspirations. Have you as an individual formulated yours? If so, yours is the task to excel in that channel. This ambition, however, will not be attained with just the mere desire, it must be precipitated with courage and convictions, irrespective of the difficulties.

The purpose of this lies in the realization that we are to be the future pioneers, not only on college campuses but in the straight and narrow paths of life. This is a message which needs constant repetition. Gone are the days when we can count upon philanthropy to bridge our rivers of despair. Past is the golden age of charity for our institutions and for our race. This, the day of self help, of self denial, is necessary to cope with the emergencies which are conflicting.

We may not have the opportunity nor the ability to understand what many youths today are striving to do, but we should have the desire to lend support and give encouragement to those who are and who strive to be.

As youth of the future years, let us carve a more brilliant chapter in its history, by, instead of trusting to breaks, luck, or perhaps chance, "stand on our feet" and become leaders in our present day crisis.

—CHARLES C. GRAVES.

The Chemistry Of Man

A man weighing 140 pounds contains enough fat for seven cakes of soap, carbon for 9,000 pencils, phosphorus to make 2,200 match heads, magnesium for one dose of salts, iron to make one medium-sized nail, sufficient lime to whitewash a chicken coop, enough sulphur to rid one dog of fleas, and water to fill a 10-gallon barrel.

—Dr. F. E. Lawson, English savant.

Heavy women command more attention than thin ones, and usually have more friends. They're not so apt to be preoccupied with clothes. Women who think of nothing but clothes bore men because they haven't time to be nice to them.

—Elsa Maxwell in Vogue

Forceful Preaching

Dr. Kidd, a well-known preacher of Aberdeen, Scotland, in bygone days, once spied a man sleeping peacefully through all his fulminations. He lifted his Bible and threw it with unerring aim at the head of the offender, shouting, "If you don't hear the Word of God, I'll make you feel it!"

—Frank Cains,
The Prophet of the Heart
(Hodder & Stoughton)